

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES JOULE, Berkowitz, Kerttula, Samuels, Ramras**

**Introduced: 2/8/06**

**Referred: Resources, Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

1    **Creating an Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission.**

2    **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3           **WHEREAS** recent weather patterns have created warming trends that have  
4   jeopardized the health and well-being of residents of communities and the natural resources  
5   on which they rely; and

6           **WHEREAS** flooding and erosion affects 184 coastal and river communities, or 86  
7   percent of Alaska communities, in both rural and urban areas of the state; and

8           **WHEREAS** communities on the coast are affected by flooding and erosion from the  
9   sea because of the delayed formation of protective shore ice in the fall; and

10          **WHEREAS** communities along riverbanks or in river deltas are susceptible to  
11   flooding and erosion caused by ice jams, snow and glacial melts, rising sea levels, changing  
12   river patterns, and heavy rainfall; and

13          **WHEREAS** permafrost is found beneath approximately 80 percent of the state; and

14          **WHEREAS**, in recent years, there has been widespread thawing of permafrost in  
15   some areas, causing land to slump and erode and causing serious damage to infrastructure;  
16   and

1       **WHEREAS** the thawing of the permafrost is likely to continue across the state and  
 2 will have an effect on future structures and development; and

3       **WHEREAS** fish and wildlife habitats are changing, affecting the accessibility and  
 4 viability of certain species; and

5       **WHEREAS** resource development and the revenue it generates are potentially  
 6 affected by the thawing of the permafrost; and

7       **WHEREAS** the state has only one employee working on these issues; and

8       **WHEREAS** a comprehensive, preventative plan to address these issues will help save  
 9 lives, protect public health, preserve economic and resource development, and protect  
 10 valuable infrastructure;

11       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that there is created an Alaska  
 12 Climate Impact Assessment Commission; and be it

13       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall consist of 13 members as  
 14 follows:

15               (1) two senators appointed by the president of the senate;

16               (2) two representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of  
 17 representatives; and

18               (3) nine public members appointed jointly by the president of the senate and  
 19 the speaker of the house of representatives consisting of

20                       (A) one member who represents the Denali Commission;

21                       (B) one member who represents the University of Alaska;

22                       (C) one member who represents the Alaska Federation of Natives;

23                       (D) one member who represents the Department of Transportation and  
 24 Public Facilities;

25                       (E) two members who represent affected Alaska communities;

26                       (F) two members who represent affected Alaska businesses; and

27                       (G) one member knowledgeable in the area of fish and game; and be it

28       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the commission may receive  
 29 compensation, per diem, or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred in serving on  
 30 the commission; and be it

31       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission may meet during and between

1 legislative sessions; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House and Senate Resources Committees shall  
3 assign committee staff to provide support services for the commission; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the duties of the commission include the following:

5 (1) assess the effects of flooding, erosion, and climate changes across the  
6 state;

7 (2) identify specific circumstances of flooding and erosion that affect life,  
8 property, and economic and resource development in the state;

9 (3) examine the feasibility of alternatives to prevent and mitigate the effects of  
10 flooding and erosion;

11 (4) develop a policy to guide infrastructure investments in Alaska villages,  
12 cities, and boroughs that are most affected by flooding and erosion;

13 (5) recommend land use regulations, including area standards for designation  
14 of land prone to flooding and erosion;

15 (6) investigate and assess issues involving permafrost and damage caused by  
16 permafrost;

17 (7) recommend policies to decrease the negative effects of permafrost; and

18 (8) identify and coordinate efforts of mutual concern with federal agencies;  
19 and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall offer recommendations and  
21 provide possible solutions and preventative measures that can be implemented by Alaska  
22 communities and by the state and federal governments; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall deliver a report of its findings to  
24 the legislature by the tenth day of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State  
25 Legislature, together with legislative proposals for consideration; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the commission shall be terminated at the conclusion  
27 of the second regular session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature.